

- The intent of the NWTF was to provide grants to on-ground cooperative weed control projects (an incentive for people to work together); and develop new and innovative weed control methods. The Department of Ag was tasked with administering the grant program.
- The 12% cap was added to statute in 1995 to protect the fund and ensure that majority of \$'s went to grants not to administration and oversight.
- From 1985 through 2006, the NWTF program was administered within ~12% allowed by statute.
- 12% of total revenue is more than adequate to administer the NWTF program. The intent was never to fund the entire weed program within MDA. If extra positions are important to the state then they need to be funded by general fund or other sources of revenue.
- Since 2006, the amount taken from the NWTF by MDA for 'weed program expenses and administration' has increased exponentially resulting in a decline of revenue available for grants to agricultural producers and other potential grantees.
- MDA selects the NWTF advisory council members, approves grants, and now funds grants to themselves for new positions and projects. If the department wants to fund their own program out of the NWTF then we need an independent council to oversee the NWTF.
- The bill will add additional revenue into the NWTF for grants and protect the weed fund for its intended use.